

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1, 3, 7-12, 14-21, and 23-24; and amend claim 25 as set forth below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

CLAIMS

1-24. (cancelled)

25. (currently amended) An illumination device for simulating neon lighting, comprising:

~~an essentially a solid and substantially~~ a rod-like member having a predetermined length with a light-receiving surface and a light-emitting surface, said rod-like member being composed of a substantially flexible compound and defining an internal channel extending substantially along its predetermined length;

a flexible circuit board received in the internal channel defined by said rod-like member;

a multiplicity of spaced point light sources arranged in a line along said flexible circuit board and extending substantially along the light-receiving surface of said rod-like member, such that light entering the rod-like member from said point light sources and through the light-receiving surface is preferentially scattered, with light being directed along the predetermined length of said rod-like member while also being urged out the light-emitting surface of said rod-like member, thus causing a light intensity pattern that appears substantially uniform along the light-emitting surface of said rod-like member; and

a collection surface positioned near said point light sources for collecting and reflecting light not emitted directly into said rod-like member.

26. (previously presented) The illumination device as recited in claim 25, wherein said collection surface is adjacent a portion of the outer surface of said rod-like member.

27. (previously presented) The illumination device as recited in claim 25, wherein said point light sources are light emitting diodes.

28. (previously presented) The illumination device as recited in claim 25, in which said substantially flexible compound is impregnated with a filler, said filler deflecting light incident thereon so as to achieve the desired preferential scattering of light and causing the light intensity pattern to appear substantially uniform along the light-emitting surface of said rod-like member.

29. (previously presented) The illumination device as recited in claim 28, wherein said filler is a plurality of micro balloons, each having a shell and deflecting light incident thereon.